

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700234

A. Statement of Planning Objectives

This grant application to the OHMVR Division covers work to build the capacity of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for intensified monitoring and management of soil erosion stemming from or adversely impacting onto designated OHV trails and OHV Open Riding Areas on the public lands. The geographic scope is the BLM California Desert District and the California portion of the BLM Lower Colorado River District.

Sparse desert vegetation means that motor vehicles easily disturb desert soils and generate air-borne dust that adds to particulate load – a health concern for many young children and seniors. Infrequent but powerful rainstorms in the California deserts also move large amounts of sediment long distances at rapid spurts. Landslides triggered by heavy rains can make OHV trails impassable, and poor design of older OHV trails can cause gullying and downslope erosion next to trails. Soil loss along desert OHV trails destabilizes slopes and compromises trail stability, reduces soil fertility for the already limited vegetation growing on site, and makes OHV travel riskier and less enjoyable for riders.

BLM in California is now directing greater attention to soil conservation and its relation to air quality and water quality – especially in Southern California where residents, many of them avid OHV riders, are aware of degradation of these resources and the effects on their daily lives. Meeting the challenges of providing best-quality motorized recreation experiences, meeting regulations set by the State of California Water Quality Control Board and the State of California Air Resources Board, and accomplishing sustainable ecosystem management in a time of global climate change require that BLM contribute more to securing the well-being of Californians. In addition, the OHMVR Division established the 2008 Soil Standard and Soil Conservation Guidelines as guidance for accomplishing OHV facility monitoring to sustain OHV recreation and conserve natural resource in California deserts.

The focus of the project to build capacity is providing the rapid detection, diagnosis, and response to soil loss in OHV recreation environments. BLM is directing training for its OHV recreation staff, park rangers, and natural resource specialists so that they better integrate principles of management for soils, water quality, and air quality in their daily work.

The funding sought under this grant application applies to adding new skills to BLM field office staff for accomplishing the joint objectives of the BLM and the Division to achieve sustainable OHV recreation for the long term in the California deserts.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California State Office, and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation both develop and sustain OHV recreational riding opportunities on public lands in the California deserts. An important element of service to the OHV community is to provide designated OHV routes that create riding enjoyment and access to the remarkable natural resources of the deserts. An important element of enjoyment and access is having OHV routes and OHV open riding facilities that provide minimal interruptions to delivery of recreational riding opportunities. Tracking soil erosion and the loss of trail functionality gives feedback to BLM staff about on-the-ground needs for OHV trail and open riding area repair and site improvement.

A major component of this program is to train BLM staff for building response capacity. But, just as important, the capacity building program for trail management is reaching out to engaged OHV riders who want a stewardship role in maintaining a high-quality OHV recreation environment for their favorite riding areas. Training workshops for BLM staff are also open to OHV riders who want to assist BLM in maintaining and improving the value of OHV recreation sites. Training will create a closer support network for OHV programs where OHV volunteers can further assist BLM field offices to complete the BLM quality goals for OHV recreation sites.

C. Statement of Activities

The capacity building program for intensified soil management in OHV desert landscapes consists of the following steps:

1. Finalize an OHV soil monitoring program specific to California deserts that fulfills, or exceeds as needed, the 2008 Soil

Standard and Soil Conservation Guidelines. Development of the desert soil monitoring program will rely on collaborative input from BLM OHV program managers at seven desert field offices plus staff from Heber Dunes SVRA and Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The intent of inclusion is to meet the joint BLM/OHMVR Division objectives for resource conservation and sustainable OHV recreation opportunity. The OHV desert soil monitoring program at BLM covers recreation areas (trail networks, open riding areas) that receive funding support from the OHMVR Division.

2. Write a detailed monitoring protocol for instructing BLM staff at desert field offices in efficient, scientifically credible, and statistically valid methods to document soil erosion problems on or along designated OHV trails and OHV open riding areas. A soil scientist certified by the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) will be the lead author of the protocol. Technical review for the protocol will come from BLM staff at the desert field offices, soil scientists from the BLM National Operations Center Science Team, and OHMVR staff from the desert and dune State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs).

3. Design a database for storing OHV soil monitoring data collected under the protocol that links seamlessly to the BLM geographic information system (GIS). This database would also include the maintenance history and solutions found for soil loss control at individual sites.

4. Hire a Presidential Management Fellow for 18 months (or longer) to direct the BLM Capacity Building Program for Desert Soil Management. The Fellow would work centrally in the California desert from the BLM Palm Springs Field Office.

5. Develop the content and format for five workshops with field training covering the OHV soil monitoring program, protocol, database management, and trail maintenance at the BLM Barstow, El Centro, Needles, Palm Springs, and Ridgecrest field offices. Staffs from the BLM Lake Havasu and Yuma field offices, the staffs of the desert SVRAs, and OHV riders interested in learning about desert soils and their management and in volunteering to assist BLM staff in monitoring soils in OHV recreation settings.

6. Provide technical assistance and quality assurance support for individual BLM staff to implement the intensified soil management at individual field offices.

7. Produce an annual accomplishment and analysis of work completed under the monitoring protocol and subsequent maintenance undertaken to remedy any soil loss problems.

D. List of Reports

The following reports originate as part of the Building Capacity Program:

1. Formalized BLM California Soil Monitoring Program for OHV recreation trail networks and open riding areas receiving funding from the OHMVR Division
2. BLM California Desert Soils Monitoring Protocol to identify and limit soil erosion, prevent sediment delivery to water bodies, and curb dust
3. BLM California Desert Soils Monitoring Training and Reference Manual
4. BLM California Annual Progress Report for the Building Capacity Project

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1. Timeline for Completion

Attachments:

[Timeline for Completion of Project Activities](#)

2. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents

3. Optional Project-specific Maps

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: BLM - California State Office
 Application: Planning- Develop Statewide Protocol and Capacity Building to Implement OHMVR So

6/2/2009

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APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - California State Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Planning- Develop Statewide Protocol and Capacity Building to Implement OHMVR So	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Development</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Restoration</div> </div>		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>This grant application to the OHMVR Division covers work to build the capacity of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for intensified monitoring and management of soil erosion stemming from or adversely impacting onto designated OHV trails and OHV Open Riding Areas on the public lands. The geographic scope is the BLM California Desert District and the California portion of the BLM Lower Colorado River District.</p> <p>Sparse desert vegetation means that motor vehicles easily disturb desert soils and generate air-borne dust that adds to particulate load – a health concern for many young children and seniors. Infrequent but powerful rainstorms in the California deserts also move large amounts of sediment long distances at rapid spurts. Landslides triggered by heavy rains can make OHV trails impassable, and poor design of older OHV trails can cause gullying and downslope erosion next to trails. Soil loss along desert OHV trails destabilizes slopes and compromises trail stability, reduces soil fertility for the already limited vegetation growing on site, and makes OHV travel riskier and less enjoyable for riders.</p> <p>BLM in California is now directing greater attention to soil conservation and its relation to air quality and water quality – especially in Southern California where residents, many of them avid OHV riders, are aware of degradation of these resources and the effects on their daily lives. Meeting the challenges of providing best-quality motorized recreation experiences, meeting regulations set by the State of California Water Quality Control Board and the State of California Air Resources Board, and accomplishing sustainable ecosystem management in a time of global climate change require that BLM contribute more to securing the well-being of Californians. In addition, the OHMVR Division established the 2008 Soil Standard and Soil Conservation Guidelines as guidance for accomplishing OHV facility monitoring to sustain OHV recreation and conserve natural resource in California deserts.</p> <p>The focus of the project to build capacity is providing the rapid detection, diagnosis, and response to soil loss in OHV recreation environments. BLM is directing training for its OHV recreation staff, park rangers, and natural resource specialists so that they better integrate principles of management for soils, water quality, and air quality in their daily work.</p> <p>The funding sought under this grant application applies to adding new skills to BLM field office staff for accomplishing the joint objectives of the BLM and the Division to achieve sustainable OHV recreation for the long term in the California deserts.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Desert Soil Monitoring Project Lea	2670.000	41.600	HRS	0.00	111,072.00	111,072.00
	Other-BLM Soil Water Air Program Manager	160.000	73.710	HRS	0.00	11,794.00	11,794.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - California State Office
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-OHV Prog. Coordinators (7)	280.000	52.480	HRS	0.00	14,694.00	14,694.00
	Other-Park Rangers (7)	280.000	35.660	HRS	0.00	9,985.00	9,985.00
	Other-Desert SVRA Staff (6)	60.000	50.000	HRS	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	Other-BLM Needles Soil Sci Volunteers	160.000	25.000	HRS	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
	Other-BLM National Soil Scientist	20.000	73.500	HRS	0.00	1,470.00	1,470.00
	Ecologist	240.000	68.710	HRS	0.00	16,490.00	16,490.00
	Other-OHV Program Coordinator	80.000	75.080	HRS	0.00	6,006.00	6,006.00
	Management and Admin Staff	10.000	41.020	HRS	0.00	410.00	410.00
	Management and Admin Staff	30.000	51.040	HRS	0.00	1,531.00	1,531.00
	Other-CA Dep Dir Nat Resouces	10.000	89.290	HRS	0.00	893.00	893.00
	Total for Staff				0.00	181,345.00	181,345.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Desert Soil Monitoring Protocol	1.000	112000.000	HRS	112,000.00	0.00	112,000.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Office Supplies	1.000	1000.000		250.00	750.00	1,000.00
	Other-Field Sheet Holders	7.000	26.000	EA	182.00	0.00	182.00
	Other-Tripod	5.000	188.000	EA	940.00	0.00	940.00
	Other-Tape Measures	5.000	52.000		260.00	0.00	260.00
	Other-Laser Rangefinder/Hypsometer	5.000	400.000		2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				3,632.00	750.00	4,382.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Field Vehicle	8200.000	0.500		0.00	4,100.00	4,100.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Lodging	70.000	150.000		10,500.00	0.00	10,500.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				10,500.00	4,100.00	14,600.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
Total Program Expenses					126,132.00	186,195.00	312,327.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					126,132.00	186,195.00	312,327.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					126,132.00	186,195.00	312,327.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: BLM - California State Office
 Application: Planning- Develop Statewide Protocol and Capacity Building to Implement OHMVR So

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	0.00	181,345.00	181,345.00	
2	Contracts	112,000.00	0.00	112,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	3,632.00	750.00	4,382.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	10,500.00	4,100.00	14,600.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		126,132.00	186,195.00	312,327.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		126,132.00	186,195.00	312,327.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		126,132.00	186,195.00	312,327.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

The effort initiated by this grant proposal builds the capacity of BLM staff to monitor and manage soil erosion resulting from designated OHV trails and from OHV riding. The result will be a positive impact on protection the hydrologic functioning of wetlands on BLM lands associated with the Amargosa, Colorado, Mojave, San Sebastian rivers as well as the canyon watersheds with water flow IPanamint, San Bernardino, Sierra Nevada, etc.) - all designated navigable waters by the State of California. BLM staff will become technically adept at monitoring and quantifying impacts of soil erosion and designing and implementing projects to halt or reverse soil erosion along OHV trails. Reduction in soil and mining sediments and surface gullyng and protection of stable stream banks will be visible results. Protection of associated aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems through reduced sediment erosion and increased water quality will advance the recovery of T&E species such as the Desert Pupfish, Arizona and Least Bell's Vireos, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and the Yuma Clapper Rail.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

This project is unique but might be duplicated by desert national parks, the US Fish and Wildlife Service refuge, and State of California conservation lands to create cumulative improvements to soil stability, reduced sediment in streams and the air, and retention of native desert vegetation. Adverse effects from increased OHV noise or traffic would not result from this project. Improved OHV riding experiences will result from improved OHV trail conditions where soil erosion does not undermine trail conditions or limit passability for riders. BLM staff can cumulatively over time detect and address adverse or potentially adverse impacts from soil loss more rapidly and more expertly.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

The propose project will have a significant positive effect on environments where steep slopes and highly erosive soils are present. BLM staff will be more proficient in managing soil loss from steep sites or sites prone to erosion because of their special properties (e.g., silty and loamy soils in high wind areas with scant surface vegetation).

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

Outcomes of increased technical proficiency in managing soil erosion will protect disruption of naturally appearing viewsheds by removing the sources and symptoms of soil erosion stemming from OHV trails and OHV riding. The following areas officially designated as scenic highways and having BLM lands in the California Desert District or the Lower Colorado Desert District within thier viewshed will benefit from this project:

Imperial - no officially designated scenic highways exist for the county

Inyo - no officially designated scenic highways have BLM viewsheds

Kern - no officially designated scenic highways exist for the county

Riverside - Highway 62 from I-10 to the San Bernardino County line, Highway 74 through the San Jacinto / Santa Rosa National Monument

San Bernardino - no officially designated scenic highways have BLM viewsheds

San Diego - no officially designated scenic highways have BLM viewsheds

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

Within the BLM California Desert District and the BLM Lower Colorado Desert District, hazard sites cited on the Cortese List are present. None of the BLM staff covered in this project would be working on soil erosion control in these hazard sites because the sites would be off-limits to OHV riding for the sake of the health and safety of BLM staff and OHV riders. HazMat specialists trained in management of erosion and spread of hazardous materials would work on controlling soil erosion at all Cortese List sites.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

Indirect impacts that would significantly affect OHV riders would in the long term would be positive as the quality of OHV trails would improve and remain high. In the short-term, at sites where erosion remediation necessitates temporary closure of OHV trails, OHV riders may experience inconvenience while BLM staff work on trail repair. Temporary closures for repair may cause OHV riders to focus their riding elsewhere, possibly causing increasing use elsewhere for the term of the repair maintenance.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Soils Capacity Building](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points) ☒ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points) ☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Planning Project - Q 2.

A Planning Project - Page 1

2. The Planning Project would address the following 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on special-status species habitats
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on cultural resources
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on soil conditions
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on water quality
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on other recreation uses
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on adjacent lands.
☐ Potential impact to relationships between OHV Recreation and local residents
☐ Toxic or hazardous materials within a Project Area or adjacent property that may impact OHV Recreation
☒ Trail issues such as traffic patterns, trails closures, appropriate uses, etc.

B. Planning Project - Page 2

Explain each statement that was checked

Special Species: Averting damage to habitat that for status species that frequent trails and trailside or live in burrows in the soil nearby: Desert Tortoise, Burrowing Owl, fringe-toed lizards, and Flat-tailed Horned Lizard.
Cultural resources: Erosion for OHV trails may harm the integrity of cultural sites located next to or downslope from the trails. Frequent monitoring by BLM staff trained in the soil monitoring protocol are able to clearly identify causes and effects and alert archaeologists and maintenance staff at BLM field office so they may make a rapid response to repair damage and avert further damage to cultural resources.

Soil Conditions: Better trained OVH trail monitors will be able to implement the BLM soil monitoring protocol for the California deserts confidently and determine where soil problems are beginning to occur so that reversing any damage is faster and less costly.

Water quality: Developing a detailed protocol and training BLM staff to implement the protocol will address rapid iden

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 6 or more items checked (4 points) ☐ 4 to 5 items checked (3 points)
☐ 2 to 3 items checked (2 points) ☐ 1 or no items checked (No points)

3. Motorized Access - Q 3.

3. The Project would lead to improved facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Camping ☒ Birding
☒ Hiking ☒ Equestrian trails

- ☐ Fishing
☐ Other (Specify)

☒ Rock Climbing

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project proposal was developed with public input employing the following 1

(Check all that apply) Scoring: Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project was discussed in informal meetings with staff of the California Geological Survey and soil scientists from the University of California at Davis (stakeholders and technical experts) and with soil scientists at the BLM Alturas, Hollister, and Ukiah field offices (stakeholders and implementation staff).

5. Stakeholder Input - Q 5.

5. If the Project were approved, the planning process would incorporate substantial stakeholder input: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

If 'Yes', explain, specifically, how it would be 'substantial'. Identify stakeholders

BLM will solicit review and feedback on the desert soil monitoring protocol for technical completeness from the BLM OHV recreation staff, maintenance staff, and wildlife biologists in desert field offices, the BLM National Science Team soil scientist, OHMVR staff from the desert State Vehicular Recreation Areas, and especially from people in the OHV recreation and environmental communities who are interested in assisting BLM conduct OHV trail monitoring in areas that they value. In addition, BLM will make a draft of the Soil Monitoring Protocol available to the general public on the BLM California State Office website and will announce the availability of the draft Protocol for review through its media outreach.

6. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 6.

6. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s)

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, California State Office - Davis, Soil Science Division
UC-Davis Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources
California Geological Survey
BLM California Desert District and BLM Lower Colorado Desert District
Heber Dunes and Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Areas

7. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 7.

7. The Planning Project sustains OHV Opportunity in the following manner 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Project will develop management plans for existing OHV Opportunity (4 points)
☐ Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points)

- ☐ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3 points)
- ☐ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2 points)
- ☐ Project will develop a system of designated OHV routes for an existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

This planning grant sustain OHV opportunity by monitoring, diagnosing, and repairing OHV trails where are contributing to detrimental loads of dust and sediment from soil erosion. The projects completed will contribute additional information, that will be incorporated into management planning, and soil planning for individual projects in the future.

8. Identification of Funding Sources - Q 8.

8. Funds for implementing the completed plan have been identified 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

The Bureau of Land Management State Offices in California and Arizona will implement the Soil Monitoring Protocol for BLM public lands in California after the planning and training phase covered in this grant application for support of Building Capacity for Monitoring California Desert Soils

Reference Document

National Guidance in the BLM Manual, Section 7130 Erosion Control

9. Offsite Impacts - Q 9.

9. The Planning Project would address offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff): 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

This project involves training for BLM staff in OHV recreation management, natural resources, and maintenance to learn the Desert Soil Monitoring Protocol for implementation of a regular program of soil erosion monitoring. Intensified monitoring for erosion is critical for BLM in support of sustainable high-quality OHV recreation and in making reductions in emissions of fugitive dust and in sediment flows into streams and washes that ultimately reduce water quality in the Salton Sea basin, the Amargosa, lower Colorado River, and Mojave rivers.